Herd Navigator™ – focus on the right cow, at the right time, with the right treatment

Available for VMS & ALPRO™ Parlour
Herd Navigator™ has achieved amazing results¹ in terms of improving productivity on dairy farms. The reason is simple; this system’s accuracy enables the dairy producer to intervene at an early stage and with the most precision available to dairy herd managers today. Automated solutions such as Herd Navigator™ give you a powerful tool to help you to improve animal welfare and milk quality without increasing your workload. This is what we at DeLaval call, “Smart Farming”.

You want to manage your herd so that you can intervene as early as possible to prevent more serious problems from occurring. You need a smart tool to do this and to help you navigate.

You want to improve animal welfare and milk quality, but you don’t want to add more heavy work to your already busy day. You want to know that your investment is measurable and has a timely return on investment. Set your sights on Herd Navigator™ to support your desire for increased milk production, quality of milk and improved herd health. Herd Navigator™, by analyzing the milk from individual cows, automatically monitors your herd every day.

Focus area | Parameter analyzed in milk | Herd Navigator™ identifies
---|---|---
Reproduction | Progesterone | Heat and alert heat
| | | Likelihood of success at insemination
| | | Pregnancy
| | | Abortion
| | | Cysts
| | | Anoestrus

Udder health | LDH – lactate dehydrogenase | Acute mastitis

Feeding and energy | BHB – beta hydroxybutyrate | Ketosis
| | | Subclinical ketosis
| | | Secondary metabolic disorders

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Successful reproduction

Heat detection rates of at least 95% are reported on Herd Navigator™ farms.

Automatic progesterone testing
Herd Navigator™ automatically measures the level of progesterone in milk, this is the “Gold Standard” for the cow’s reproductive status². With the Herd Navigator™ system, you will see when the cow is in heat and therefore breeding the right cow at the right time, when she is pregnant, when she has an early embryonic loss and which cows have abnormal ovarian structures such as cysts and anoestrus. Less time will be spent on monitoring heats by you or your team, this will save time for other management activities. Monitoring your herd through the computer in ten minutes, now replaces the physical monitoring three times a day.

Manual palpations and ultrasound for pregnancy diagnosis is replaced by Herd Navigator™. You now have reduced open days, improved calving intervals and increased conception rates. This will add up to improved savings and efficiencies. Plus your herd veterinarian can spend time helping you make better decisions on your herd management and for problem cows.

Reproduction status – progesterone profile chart

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Managing disease at an early stage

Herd Navigator™ can help to detect acute mastitis before physical signs are visible.

Herd Navigator™ – a tool to help you manage udder health.
Herd Navigator™ automatically measures lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) in the milk. The enzyme LDH is highly correlated to somatic cell counts early in new infections and is closely linked to the presence of mastitis. Levels of LDH rise rapidly when a new infection begins, measuring this with Herd Navigator™ results in an infection being detected before it is visible to the human eye.

Automatic monitoring and analysis by Herd Navigator™ means that the right cows in their risk periods are sampled and then identified so that they can be followed up with the udder health management protocol developed by you and your veterinarian. You are able to work proactively, before a more severe mastitis case develops. This will save time and you can incorporate an analysis of the trends with your veterinarian and work on preventative strategies against new infections.

Feeding and energy balance

Herd Navigator™ helps detect early signs of ketosis. Detection of previously unobserved cases of ketosis has a considerable effect on milk production. With immediate treatment to avoid clinical ketosis, the system can help prevent milk losses of up to 600 kg of milk per cow per lactation.

Subclinical ketosis is due to a negative energy balance in the transition cow period and on average up until day 60. Herd Navigator™ is automatically monitoring the BHB – beta hydroxybutyrate in the milk in the first 60 days after calving, focusing on the cows at risk of ketosis, allowing you to act early and prevent a loss in milk production and increased veterinary costs through displaced abomasums. You can review trends with your feed advisor and veterinarian to ensure that changes are made to the ration, bunk management or transition cow management. Feed costs are a significant cost per kg of milk production. Therefore ensuring that the ration meets the needs of your herd is very important.

Herd Navigator™ provides on a daily basis the data that you need to adjust your ration, bunk management or herd environment.
Real customer feedback about Herd Navigator™

“Since installing Herd Navigator™ five months ago, we have found it extremely helpful, especially with ketosis detection. Our fresh cows and slow cows are picked up right away by the Herd Navigator™ technology, which helps to keep milking curves stay on an upward trend instead of dropping. If you are serious about saving money and managing your cows the way you want to, this is an opportunity that is like no other, we are only starting to see the benefits and are excited to see what else is to come.”

Family Fraser
Carlmart Farms
Ottawa, Ontario
180 cows
Double 12 Parallel

“Since the start up, we saw significative improvement on herd: increase milk production from 32 Kg to 36 Kg per cow, better milk quality and less mastitis. My brother and I run a farm with 90 dairy cows and 200 Ha land. With the combination of VMS and Herd Navigator™, we save a lot of time every day. Only few minutes are needed to check heat and udder health.”

GEAC Laquemine
Pretz en Argonne
France
90 cows
VMS

How Herd Navigator™ works

Herd Navigator™ is not just an advanced milk analysis tool; it also allows you to develop SOPs so that reports quickly show what action should be taken based on the notifications from the milk analysis.

When cows are being milked, representative milk samples are taken simultaneously from different milking points in parlors or different VMS’s and sent, one-by-one to the analyzer instrument. The system automatically selects, through an advanced bio-model, which cows to sample at which milking session and for which parameter, ketosis, mastitis, reproduction.

Herd Navigator™ has:
- Easy to use software integrated into the herd management program
- Well arranged attention lists and graphs for animals that are “exceptions” and need attention
- Protocols placed in the software so all users of the system know what action to take
- Protocols will be developed by you with the support of your veterinarian and feed advisor

Connect with your advisors, if you choose, your veterinarian or feed advisor may access your dairy herd management data remotely to provide advice quickly and efficiently, using real time data on your farm, in your herd. You and your advisors will receive training to ensure that you receive the full benefits from your Herd Navigator™ management solution.

How Herd Navigator™ works

Herd Navigator™ makes:
- Detects heat by measuring progesterone
  Early detection of: silent heat, heat, pregnancy, abortion, follicular and luteal cysts, and prolonged anoestrus.
- Detects mastitis by measuring LDH, lactate dehydrogenase
  Early detection of acute mastitis.
- Detects ketosis by measuring BHB, beta-hydroxybutyrate
  Early detection of: subclinical ketosis, ketosis, metabolic diseases.

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Combined peak competencies

Herd Navigator™, the first product of the FOSS and DeLaval Solutions Brand, has been developed by FOSS A/S and DeLaval International AB, in close cooperation with the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at Aarhus University and the Danish Cattle Federation.

FOSS provides innovation to the dairy industry to ensure it stays up to date with milk analysis demands. FOSS dedicated analytical solutions have proven to be significant for dairy herd improvement, raw milk testing, standardization in dairy production and verification of end product quality. FOSS has been the market leader for 50 years.

DeLaval develops and supplies milking and other farm equipment for dairy cows, sheep, goat and buffalo farms. DeLaval drives progress in milk production by recognizing and serving the farmers’ needs. DeLaval delivers complete solutions to empower their customers and allow them to have more control of their business.

A veterinary advisory group will be formed to support the solution to ensure a thorough introduction to the system and how to best utilize all of the data offered by Herd Navigator™.

The power of the team

FOSS, DeLaval and a Veterinary Advisory Group, Herd Navigator™ is your complete dairy management solution.